



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE: MAR 21 2013

SUBJECT: Removal Site Evaluation for Cidra Metallic Caskets, Cidra, Puerto Rico
(CERCLIS ID No. PRN000204335)

FROM: Nick Magriples, On-Scene Coordinator *N. Magriples*
Removal Action Branch

TO: Joseph D. Rotola, Chief
Removal Action Branch

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Removal Action Branch has been requested to conduct a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) at Cidra Metallic Caskets, a site where no further remedial action is planned (NFRAP). The NFRAP determination signifies that no additional remedial steps will be taken to list the Site on the National Priorities List unless new information warranting further Superfund consideration or conditions not previously known to EPA regarding the Site are disclosed. As of September 30, 2003, EPA had determined that no further remedial action was warranted by the Federal Superfund program at Cidra Metallic Caskets.

Site Description and Background

Cidra Metallic Caskets (Site) is located on Road No. 172, kilometer marker 7.9, in Cidra, Puerto Rico. It is situated approximately 3.4 miles northeast of the groundwater plume associated with the Cidra Groundwater Contamination National Priorities List Site. The Site, which covers approximately three acres, has been the location of a casket maker since 1970. There are three buildings located onsite, with the third having been constructed sometime between 2005 and 2006. The company reportedly manufactures approximately 150 to 175 caskets per week. The finishes and thinner used by the company contain toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, methanol, acetone and 2-butoxyethanol, but no chlorinated solvents. Wastes generated by the company include dried paint waste, used paint thinner and rags that have been used with thinner and degreaser.

The company operates under air permits issued by the Environmental Quality Board and is a RCRA small quantity generator. There have been violations reported in the past and odor complaints from nearby residents. Inspections conducted by EPA in 2000 and 2002 observed poor housekeeping practices, paint and chemical odors, wastewater discharging through holes made in the floors directly to the soil, wastewater containing paint thinner in a ditch near the entrance to the property, damaged drums scattered on the premises and stressed vegetation. More recently, RCRA inspections in 2008 and 2009 identified minor violations that were subsequently addressed. As of October 2012, the facility had no significant violations and was considered in compliance.

The Site is located in a mixed setting of residential, retail, commercial and industrial. Road No. 172 is the main road between Caguas and Cidra. The Site is bound by a small restaurant and Road No. 172 to the north, multilevel residences or a motel to the east, and residences to the south and west. The closest residences abut the fence line of the site to the east, south and west. To the north residences are located within 200 feet on the opposite side of Road No. 172. There are an estimated 200 residences within one-quarter mile of the Site and several schools in the general area along Road No. 172. The Site is located within one-half mile of an eastern finger of Cidra Lake. Groundwater flow near the Site is generally towards the Lake.

Site assessment activities/observations

The Pre-Remedial site files, which included a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Report for Cidra, Puerto Rico (October 2000) and a Hazard Ranking System Document Package for the Cidra Groundwater Contamination National Priorities List (NPL) Site (December 2003) were reviewed as part of this RSE. A site reconnaissance was conducted by the Removal Action Branch on March 1, 2012. The Site is located on the southern side of Road No. 172. The facility is active and the property is fenced. Three metal stacks, at least 30 feet tall, are present near the rear of the northernmost building and represent the air emissions points for the facility.

Release or threatened release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant

As part of an Expanded Site Inspection of the Cidra Groundwater Contamination Site, two borings were completed at the Site by SAT in January 2003. The borings extended as deep as 75 feet below the ground surface. Headspace from soil samples collected from the borings every five feet were screened for VOCs using a portable Gas Chromatograph. TCE and PCE, the contaminants of concern for the NPL site and the impacted public supply wells, were not detected in the headspace analysis. Low levels (<1 ppbv) of toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene were present in some of the headspace samples at concentrations equal to or less than the background samples. VOCs, not associated with laboratory contaminants, were not detected in the three soil samples (surface, 52-foot and 73-foot depths) that were collected for laboratory analysis.

Threats to Public Health or Welfare

There is no threat to public health or welfare, with respect to a release of VOCs from the Site impacting supply wells, since a release of VOCs to the soil has not been documented at the Site. It is also reported that the impacted supply wells are located on the opposite side of Cidra Lake, which may serve as a groundwater divide.

Threats to the Environment

At this time there is no documentation to indicate that the Site is currently having an acute impact to any sensitive environments or natural resources.

Conclusions

Based on the available information, the Site does not warrant a CERCLA removal action at this time.

Threats to Public Health or Welfare

There is no threat to public health or welfare, with respect to a release of VOCs from the Site impacting supply wells, since a release of VOCs to the soil has not been documented at the Site. It is also reported that the impacted supply wells are located on the opposite side of Cidra Lake, which may serve as a groundwater divide.

Threats to the Environment

At this time there is no documentation to indicate that the Site is currently having an acute impact to any sensitive environments or natural resources.

Conclusions

Based on the available information, the Site does not warrant a CERCLA removal action at this time.